

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:297

ANSWERED ON:19.03.2008

CONSERVATION OF MEDICINAL PLANTS

Bhargav Shri Girdhari Lal;Maheshwari Smt. Kiran

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the steps taken by the Union Government for the conservation of medicinal plants in the country during the last three years and in the current year; and

(b) the financial assistance provided to the State Governments and the Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) for the conservation of medicinal plants during the said period and expenditure incurred thereon, State-wise?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS)

(a)& (b): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 297 FOR 19TH MARCH, 2008

The Central Government through the Ministry of Environment and Forests under its National Forest Policy, 1988, the forest and wild life acts provides a regulatory framework for conservation and protection of forests and wildlife which include medicinal plants. The National Bio-diversity Act, 2002, regulates access to forest resources including medicinal plants. There are also guidelines notified to conserve specific medicinal plants listed under either CITES and the negative list of exports notified by Government of India. There are also schemes for supporting projects on conservation of some specific medicinal plants by setting up Medicinal Plants Conservation Areas (MPCAs) which are primarily located in forest areas. The medicinal plants present in the protected areas like national parks and sanctuaries are also accorded protection under the Wild Life (Protection Act), 1972. The Botanical Survey of India carries out floristic surveys and also conserves rare and threatened medicinal plants in its gardens. The developmental schemes of the Ministry provide financial assistance for raising of non timber forest produce (NTFP) including medicinal plants.

Medicinal Plants Board has been set up to coordinate with concerned departments/organisations/ states, UTs and formulate and implement schemes for development of medicinal plants sector. The Board has been supporting scheme for conservation of medicinal plants with the main activities as under:-

Survey, inventorisation and documentation of medicinal plants resources and identification of medicinal plants of conservation concern for appropriate management interventions.

In-situ conservation of medicinal plants.

Ex-situ conservation of medicinal plants through creation of herbal gardens and vanaspativans

Raising of quality planting material for cultivation of medicinal plants.

Conservation and sustainable resource development of rare, endangered and threatened species of medicinal trees, perennials and herbs which are in high demand.

Support for cultivation to farmers/growers of commercially important identified plants so as to reduce pressure on forests and create livelihood options for farmers.

Assessment at the national level of demand and supply of medicinal plants.

Collection and dissemination of updated information regarding marketing of medicinal plants.

Supporting promotional activities like School Herbal Gardens and Home Herbal Gardens to create awareness about usage of medicinal plants for healthcare.

Training and capacity building programmes for collectors, tribals, farmers on Good Agriculture & Collection Practices.

Development of agro-techniques for domestication of medicinal plants sourced from the forests.

Enclosed at Annexure – I & II are the details of projects sanctioned and financial assistance provided to the State Government and Non-Government Organisations for key activities relating to Conservation of medicinal plants during the last three years and the current financial year.